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18 April 1986

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

STUDY PROBES CONNECTION BETWEEN OIL PRICE DROP, RECESSION

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 8 Mar 86 p 43

[Article: "The Drop in Gulf Economic Growth Exceeds the Drop in Oil Revenues"]

[Text] The Cooperation Council countries have started functioning as an economic group in international circles. This has been the case in the context of collective negotiation with the countries of Europe concerning petrochemicals, and it is happening every day in various areas, most importantly oil and common supply commodity imports. How does this group of countries seem, in terms of finances and spending?

The secretariat general of the council has issued a report containing a number of indices which are fit to constitute data at the disposal of analysts. The most important of these indices are:

The government revenues of the six Cooperation Council countries (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the Emirates and Oman) increased from \$89.8 billion in 1979 to \$92 billion in 1983, owing to the rise in oil prices. Specifically, these came to 110 billion in 1980, 148 billion in 1981, 103 billion in 1982 and 92 billion in 1983.

With respect to public expenditures, these rose from \$72.3 billion in 1973 to 107 billion in 1983. There has been a difference in the level of spending as is clear from the following observations:

1. The ratio of current expenditures to overall spending in most council countries increased in 1983, except in Oman and Kuwait.
2. Capital spending's share of total expenditures in most council countries increased in 1983 and rose noticeably in Saudi Arabia and Oman. In Bahrain it rose from approximately 28 percent in 1982 to about 45 percent in 1983, as a result of the use of government lending financing sources for capital spending during this period. Kuwait realized a corresponding rate for the previous year.

These developments reflect the relative importance of investment spending in the council countries, at a time when the need that optimum use be made with

the objective of developing and diversifying the base of non-oil financial revenue collection in these countries stands out.

Current spending is broken down as follows:

Defense and security spending absorbed a high share of current spending, totalling about 30 percent in 1983 as a result of the exacerbation of the negative effects of the general situation in the region.

Social expenditures retained a high share of current spending, receiving about 28 percent in 1983, in spite of the pursuit of a policy of limiting the cost of new burdens in the form of free services and price support.

Expenditures on public services received about 25 percent of current expenditures in 1983.

The share of expenditures on economic affairs came to about 10 percent, while other expenditures took the remainder, which came to about 7 percent of current expenditures in 1983.

The council countries' financial surplus reached its peak in 1980 (the report does not mention any figures on this surplus), then proceeded to decline, turning into a financial deficit after that date.

The ratio of financial revenues to gross domestic product in general in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is considered higher than corresponding ratios in the council countries, coming to about 90 percent in 1980, then declining to 49 percent in 1983. The ratio of general revenues to gross domestic product also declined, from 54 percent in 1981 to 40 percent in 1983, reflecting deterioration in the rate of growth of economic activity to a degree that exceeded the rate in the decline of revenues.

As regards the ratio of general financial expenditures to gross domestic product, that came to about 61 percent in 1980, then dropped to 57 percent in 1983.

The ratio of cash to local liquidity in 1981 reached its apex in Saudi Arabia and its nadir in the Emirates (70 percent and 30 percent, respectively); in 1983 the share of local liquidity in Saudi Arabia dropped to 68 percent and in the Emirates to 25 percent.

The drop in the oil price and the quantities of oil exported created a decline in net foreign assets and local credit and a drop in local liquidity in general in the Cooperation Council countries in 1983. As a consequence of that, the ratio of cash reserves to total deposits in commercial banks dropped. This in turn led to a decline in the growth rate of local credit in commercial banks, except in Oman, where the growth of credit came to about 26 percent in 1983.

Financial aid relative to national product rose in spite of the drop in revenues. Total financial aid commitments for 1982 came to about \$4.4 billion for example in Saudi Arabia, \$1.6 billion in Kuwait, \$0.8 billion in

the Emirates and \$0.25 billion in Qatar. They represent 2.82 percent, 4.86 percent, 2.06 percent and 3.8 percent of national product respectively.

The deficit in council country budgets was aggravated in 1982-83 and the overall deficit rose greatly, totalling about 47 percent in 1983 compared with 1982. Its ratio to gross domestic product increased from about 4 percent in 1982 to 6 percent in 1983 as a result of the continuous decline in collection of general revenues, while the growth rate of government spending increased during this period.

The negative financial trends in general budgets varied. The deficit rose in the Emirates and Oman from 3 and 7 percent in 1982 to 5 and 8.4 percent of gross domestic product in 1983, respectively, while the surplus turned into a relatively large financial deficit in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait, whose ratio to gross domestic product came to 77.7, 22 and 5 percent respectively during 1983. Bahrain realized a perceptible drop in the ratio of the total deficit to gross domestic product, from 4.4 percent in 1982 to 2.7 percent in 1983.

The structure of the financing of expenditures changed. It was no longer restricted to oil revenues but went beyond these to borrowing from local banks and increased tax receipts. However, oil continues to finance two-thirds of the budgets.

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CSO: 4404/267

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

GCC OPEC REVENUES--Abu Dhabi, 14 Mar (QNA)--A study prepared by the UAE concerned authorities has called for setting a new strategy on the local and Gulf levels to confront the negative aspects of the drop in oil revenues on government spending and investments. The study shows that the revenues of the GCC OPEC-member countries dropped from \$100 billion in 1984 to \$64 billion in 1985. This marks a drop of 8 percent on gross oil revenues in 1 year. [Excerpt] [Doha QNA in Arabic 1250 GMT 14 Mar 86 GF] /9365

GCC CASH LIQUIDITY--Abu Dhabi, 14 Mar (QNA)--Recent statistics of the UAE Central Bank show a rise in the GCC countries' cash liquidity to \$193.1 billion in 1984 compared with \$49.2 billion in 1975. For the same period between 1975 and 1984, cash liquidity rose in Saudi Arabia from \$39.5 billion to \$121.9 billion, in Kuwait from \$4.2 billion to \$18.9 billion, in the UAE from \$3.8 billion to \$12.4 billion, in Bahrain from \$735 million to \$3.5 billion, in Oman from \$641 million to \$3.2 billion, and in Qatar from \$523 million to \$3.0 billion. [Text] [Doha QNA in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Mar 86 GF] /3965

GCC TRADE BALANCE--Dubayy, 14 Mar (QNA)--A recent study prepared by the UAE Finance and Industry Ministry showed that the deficit in the balance of trade during 1979-1984 is estimated at \$31.4 billion. [Excerpt] [Doha QNA in Arabic 1310 GMT 14 Mar 86 GF] /9365

CSO: 4400/145

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

DELEGATE INTERVIEWED ON TOPICS DISCUSSED WITH MITTERRAND

Paris GAMK in Armenian and French 13 Mar 86 pp 1, 4

[Text] [Editor's note:] For the first time ever, a French president has received an Armenian political delegation.

On Tuesday, President Francois Mitterrand received an Armenian delegation composed of Comrade Henri Papazian, representative of the Central Committee of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation [ARF] in France; Comrade Jules Mardirosian, President of the ARF Armenian National Committee in France; and Ara Krikorian, the spokesman of the ARF Armenian National Committee in France. The 40-minute meeting was held at the Elysee palace.

In view of the significance of this meeting, GAMK interviewed delegation member Comrade Henri Papazian.

Below is the full text of the interview.

GAMK: We are on the threshold of parliamentary elections. Should this meeting be seen within the framework of the election campaign? In particular, should it be seen as a bid to win the support of French-Armenians?

Papazian: Our goal was not to place this meeting within the framework of the election campaign. Certain parties and individuals may interpret it that way, but it was we who requested a meeting with President Mitterrand and he obliged us.

GAMK: What was the focus of your conversation?

Papazian: Our discussion centered on the following four points:

a) The pursuance of the development of Armenian culture:

We stated with regard to this issue that in the past Armenian culture prospered in the East, particularly in Lebanon and Iran. The deterioration of political and security conditions in those two countries has stalled the development of Armenian culture. In order to remedy this situation we proposed that Armenian cultural development centers be established in France.

Within this framework, we told the president about the difficulties--most of which are financial--encountered by Armenian schools in France, and we noted that French authorities do not provide any financial assistance to Armenian schools.

Secondly, we proposed that the Ministry of Education undertake work to create conditions conducive to the training of Armenian language teachers and to make the teaching of the Armenian language mandatory up to the baccalaureate level. We also proposed that a university-level department be created for the training of Armenian teachers.

President Mitterrand listened to our suggestions with great interest and promised to intercede and ask the Ministry of Education to help the creation of conditions conducive to the training of Armenian language teachers.

The president expressed surprise about the fact that financial assistance [to Armenian schools] has been held back by French authorities. He found that treatment unfair because such assistance is provided to other communities.

b) The European Parliament:

We briefed the president with regard to the work that is being carried on in the European Parliament. We told him that all socialist parliamentarians support us with the exception of a number of West German parliamentarians who belong to various movements.

President Mitterrand expressed his readiness to intercede to help the passage of a resolution favorable to Armenians.

c) The Armenian Cause:

President Mitterrand stated implicitly that the task of pursuing the Armenian cause belongs to the Armenian nation, thus justifying the demands of the Armenian people. We explained to the president that the Armenian question can be resolved through an Armenian-Turkish dialog which must take place on the basis of mutual respect. In this regard, we proposed that President Mitterrand, who enjoys broad international authority, contribute to the creation of conditions conducive to the establishment of such a dialog.

We recalled the president's declaration in Vienna and stressed that he had reaffirmed that the Armenian nation is a nation of the past, the present and the future.

President Mitterrand listened with interest and enthusiasm to our proposal on an Armenian-Turkish dialog and reiterated that the Armenian nation is a nation of the future, just like other nations which have continued to exist after they were liberated from Turkish rule.

With respect to the issue of survival, our delegation observed that those nations can preserve their identity because they live under the protection of their own governments, while the Armenian people are deprived of governmental institutions and are dispersed in all corners of the world.

President Mitterrand confirmed that fact and stated that a long-term plan is needed.

Meanwhile, we explained to the president that because of the nature of the diaspora our organizations operate on an international scale and that as a result certain issues that pertain to us are examined at the international level. We proposed that we meet with the Minister of External Relations to make the study and examination of these issues easier. President Mitterrand responded positively to our request.

d) April 24:

We proposed that April 24 be declared an international "day of genocide and crimes against humanity." In this regard, we asked President Mitterrand to take an initiative.

GAMK: How does President Mitterrand see the Armenian cause?

Papazian: President Mitterrand is convinced that France has fulfilled part of its duties and responsibilities with regard to the Armenian cause, in particular through the statements and initiatives of government officials.

During this meeting President Mitterrand reaffirmed that intellectually he takes a positive stance and is sympathetic toward the Armenian cause. The president added that as a government, too, France has taken a positive stance and that it has made positive statements within that framework. However, as a statesman, President Mitterrand is opposed to the international sociopolitical content of the Armenian cause because France has ties, commitments and responsibilities to other countries. The president stated that the international sociopolitical content of the Armenian cause creates numerous difficulties whose resolution needs time.

GAMK: To be more clear, what concrete commitments did President Mitterrand appear to be prepared to make?

Papazian: He will intercede with the Minister of Education to have the condition of the Armenians schools improved and to institute a program of training Armenian language teachers.

The president will also do his best to intercede with the European Parliament. He also promised to make relations with the Ministry of External Relations easier.

GAMK: What can be concluded about this meeting?

Papazian: Having said all this, let me add that this 40-minute meeting took place in a cordial and sincere atmosphere without any restrictions imposed by protocol.

ALGERIA

PROCEDURES FOR PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT DETAILED

Algiers ALGERIE ACTUALITE in French 13 Feb 86 pp 12, 13

[Article by Kader Yessad: "National Private Investment"]

[Text] In the eyes of many private investors who had come from all over the region, the regional conference on national private investment on 4 and 5 February organized by the El-Oued wilaya represented the ideal framework for the open discussion of all questions relating to the development and strengthening of the private sector, which must now play a very important role in the consolidation of the national economy.

The role of the private sector in the economic strategy outlined in the development plans, its participation in increasing national production capacity, its part in balanced regional development, and finally its participation in developing resources that have local and regional importance, constituted the focal points which were the subject of nearly all the speeches, and there were a good many of them, as the conference progressed.

Until 1982, when law 82-11 of 21 August 1982 relative to private national investment was enacted, the private sector in general was going through an extremely difficult "turbulent phase" when unsuitable legislation and regulations prevented it from fulfilling its role completely in national economic development.

In these circumstances, the private sector was "virtually unknown," and was a difficult area to manage because its needs in primary products and equipment were neither well known or planned.

Moreover, the majority of private national businesses created before 1982 were established outside the scope of the 1966 investment code. For example, it may be noted that of more than 5,000 businesses established, only 950 were approved by the former committees. Is this not positive proof of the lack of interest shown in this sector?

At a time when our economy needs all its potential, it would be unthinkable to continue "to ignore the true extent" of this sector which, as everyone knows, has an important part to play in economic and social policy aimed at meeting the ever increasing needs of the population.

This aspect of the question was discussed at length in the El-Oued conference during which participants showed particular interest in the objectives assigned to this sector as they have been defined by the recently adopted National Charta.

The conclusion one should draw is that now the private sector, in conformity with current laws and regulations, must participate in economic development on a par with other national economic ventures, particularly through the development of all resources of local and regional importance.

This constitutes a goal which is part of a policy to provide a substitute for all-out importation, which can provide and guarantee us viable economic independence.

The necessity of giving the private sector a fresh start on a new basis was the subject of particular attention from the private investors present at the conference, and they made a point of insisting on the part that should be given to private investment in national economic integration which constitutes one of the top priority concerns of the present time.

To achieve this, it is now necessary for the sake of economic efficiency, "to adapt the national (public and private) means of production, marketing, and development to the quantitative and qualitative needs of the national economy."

Precisely to reach this goal, relations that are both healthy and efficient must be established among all the members, public and private, of the nation's business community, on the basis "of the provisions and procedures known and recognized by all." It is only on this condition that one day it will be possible to achieve real economic integration which will enable us to escape from the ever increasing danger of economic dependence.

In the present state of affairs, the private sector, the goals of which are clearly defined by the National Charter profits from many advantages, particularly fiscal and financial ones, provided to benefit the state inasmuch as it must "support, extend, and complete actions undertaken as part of the various development programs."

As far as they are concerned, local organizations also have a major role to play in the development and strengthening of the private sector which must be perceived as a means of developing local resources. To achieve this, they must give it direction by integrating it into a "truly regional perspective of a balanced policy of even development by means of a sectorial approach aimed at abolishing the disparity between the various sectors of local economic activity."

Especially since they have the means and responsibility "themselves for promoting the development of their areas, thus complementing the efforts made on the national level." Consequently, the sector must be part of a general dynamic that has been integrated with plans for the development of the country at the local and regional level.

As for the areas of activity which may attract private national investment, these extend from providing services, to small and medium size industry, subcontracting, land transportation of travelers and goods, building, public works, fishing other than deep-sea fishing, tourism, and the hotel industry.

In general terms, one may say that the immediate effect of this conference was to reassure private national investors concerning the future of their sector, since for long they have suffered from the lack of a clear, precise legislative and regulatory framework.

Such conferences should be organized regularly in order to keep private investors informed concerning all the investment possibilities open to them. Now the rules of the game are clear.

[Box, p 12]

If You Have an Investment Project

The OSCIP offers its services in helping you in the steps you take.

Where can information be obtained?

From OSCIP--the National Office for Orientation, Follow-up, and Coordination of National Private Investment, 11 Chemin Doudou Mokhtar, Ben Aknoun, Algiers.

Where can the standard file be found which deals with requests for investment approval?

From the Technical Secretariat which is temporarily being managed by the BAD [Algerian Development Bank] for investments in the 3 to 30 million Algerian dinar category.

From the wilaya (Office for Territorial Planning and Development for investments of less than 3 million Algerian dinars).

Are there other request for approval forms?

No. None at all. The only necessary document is the standard file for approval requests in conformity with the law (the 4 February 1983 decree of the minister of territorial planning and development), Official Gazette No 7, of 15, February 1983.

[Box, p 12]

What Must the Approval File Include?

--A duly filled out and completed regulation form requesting approval.

--A handwritten request from the investor indicating the nature, characteristics, expected site for the project, the commitment that will be honored, the relevant legal obligations, and where applicable, the advantages sought by reference to law No 82-11 of 21 August 1982 relative to national private investment.

--The residence certificate of the investor and his possible associates.

--The pro forma invoices for equipment, and any authenticating document which may assist in evaluating expected investment costs.

--Any other document which may be required by the OSCIP in applying present laws and regulations.

[Box, p 13]

Are There Any Advantages Provided by Law for Private Investment?

--At the request of the investor, financial and fiscal benefits may be awarded.

-Bank credit for financing the investment within the limits and under the conditions prescribed by law.

Moreover, Algerian investors living overseas who settle permanently in Algeria may at their request receive financial and fiscal benefits under the conditions prescribed by law, if they make a contribution of capital in the form of equipment or in cash.

What is the Limit on Private Investment?

The limit is set at 30 million Algerian dinars, including extension at the date of the law's publication.

Additional information should be sought from the OSCIP, 11 Chemin Doudou Mokhtar, Ben-Aknoun, Algiers.

[Box, p 12]

How is Notice of Approval Given?

By decree of the nationally responsible Wali when the total investment is equal to or less than 3 million Algerian dinars, and does not benefit from financial and fiscal advantages.

By interministerial decree of the minister of planning and national development, the minister of finance, and the minister responsible for the sector concerned, for investments between 3 and 30 million Algerian dinars, and smaller investments benefiting from financial and fiscal advantages (see law 82-11 of 21 August 1982, Article 26).

[Box, p13]

Where Should the Duly Completed Application be Filed?

--Temporarily, while waiting for the setting up of the organizational structure of the OSCIP and its regional agencies.

--Either at the ADB [Algerian Development Bank] for any project with an investment total of more than 3 million dinars and less than 30 million dinars.

--Or at the wilaya (DPAT) [Office for Territorial Planning and Development] if the total is less than 3 million dinars.

[Box, p 13]

Is One Informed When the File is Examined?

The investor is informed of the reply to his request within the time period prescribed.

He is also informed of possible reservations expressed by the responsible approval committee.

An approval contract will be drawn up upon receipt by the Technical Secretariat of a letter from the investor expressing his commitment to realizing the project agreed upon under the conditions stipulated by the responsible approval committee.

[Box, p 13]

Are the Procedures for Startup and Extension Identical?

They are identical, except that the file for an extension must also include:

--A copy of the trade register.

--A copy of the initial order when this exists.

--The plan of the initial investment.

--The initial use.

[Box, p 13]

Are Algerians Living Overseas Affected by This Procedure?

They are affected, but in view of the particular character of the requests and their restricted number, the examination of the files may not exceed the maximum, and the following conditions must be met.

--Residence overseas for at least 3 years.

--Capital contribution (in equipment or cash).

--Proof that the foreign residence certificate has been remitted to the authorities concerned.

--A certificate of residence in Algeria.

--Birth certificates for the spouse and children who are of age.

--Proof of the winding up or termination of any industrial, craft, or commercial activity that may have been carried on overseas by the applicant.

--A statement of capital contributions either in cash or in the form of imported equipment.

--In addition, equipment must be less than 3 years old, and must not be sold or transferred before formal amortization according to the regulations.

The documents and additional items required may be submitted once agreement in principle for approval has been reached, and after the lifting of the reservations that may be expressed by the approval committee concerning the investor.

9824

CSO: 4519/90

LIBYA

INTERVIEW WITH MU'AMMAR AL-QADHDHAFI

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 12 Mar 86 pp 32-34

[Passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] When I arrive, the /guide of the revolution/ is ensconced in his camp, Aziziya headquarters, protected by armored tanks and blocks of reinforced cement through which my driver must negotiate. The /man of the desert/ takes on an imperial air in his tent, amid rugged surroundings. Stately, a little theatrical, like all Bedouins, Mu'ammār al-Qadhdfafi (his surname means /builder/), the /terrorist/ who has the world's leaders trembling, speaks with a voice worthy of the Comedie Francaise. He knows perfectly well what people say about him, and he responds to it all. Those who call him /crazy/ are mistaken. Clearly he is malicious, astute, following his own logic. His father Amoumediar used to say that he was at once quick-witted, pensive and quiet. As a youth he was flashy and boisterous. As he grew older, he developed a propensity for loud proclamations. But now he has become more mistrustful, suspicious, obsessed with politics, blindly determined, and religious to the point of piety. He does not smoke or drink. He is a soldier, a thinker, a man of action. He appears worried. Two problems are of the utmost importance to Qadhdfafi right now: Chad and terrorism.

His answers reveal what concerns him: He wants to make it possible for his protege, Goukouni Oueddei, to have free rein. Oueddei is champing at the bit in his impatience to test France and probably to resume negotiations. He knows that Moscow does not abstain from giving advice directly to the leaders of the Oueddei Provisional National Union (GUNT). A sudden flare-up in Chad would certainly divert attention at least momentarily from the massacres in Afghanistan.

Terrorism to Spread

There were a lot of people in Tripoli when I was there: ferocious-looking Palestinians, enlightened ayatollahs, revolutionaries of all stripes. Qadhdfafi chaired the meeting of the high /Revolutionary Command of the Arab Nation,/ that is, 22 of the most extremist organizations. Thus, I was able to observe all the /hardliners/ of the Palestinian resistance: Abu Nizar, the sidekick of "public enemy number one;" Abu Nidal, Marbache, Hawatmeh, Jibril, Abu Moussa. These skyjackers and bomb-planters, furious that the Israelis

were able to divert a Libyan plane, have declared a war without quarter on the Zionists and their American protectors. And they have announced that they will blow up all civilian aircraft of the Jewish state and the United States. Also present were Iraqi opponents of Saddam Hussein, adversaries of the moderate Arab regimes, Iranian assassins. In sum, the entire /Gotha/ of terrorism was there.

No one here believed for a minute that the U.S. aircraft carriers /Coral Sea/ and /Saratoga,/ which were patrolling off the Libyan coasts, could launch an attack while 2,000 Americans are living here under circumstances that are much more privileged than those enjoyed by other foreigners, such as the 1,000 Frenchmen, the 8,000 Italians, and the /12,000 Soviet advisers./ But this demonstration has served to provoke all those who want to destroy capitalist society.

[Question] So you support the new position taken by these extremists?

[Answer] One thing I do know is that the war between the Palestinians and the Zionists has been going on since 1936, and that the Americans have consistently encouraged Israel's violence. Therefore, the Palestinians are obliged to follow suit.

[Question] How do you explain the fact that this Palestinian-Israeli war is exporting terrorism to the Western nations?

[Answer] The problem is that there are no particular rules for managing violence. It is the Israelis who first moved this war outside of Palestine. In my opinion, both sides are responsible for what you call /terrorism./

(Indeed, Libya has proposed that an international conference be convened to define the difference between acts of war and terrorism.)

[Question] Do you accept, then, mid-air explosions of aircraft with innocent victims on board?

[Answer] That decision is up to the Palestinians.

[Question] What about the indiscriminate bombings in Paris?

[Answer] Some wars fall within the context of this Palestinian-Israeli war, and others are outside the Palestinian context. I consider participants in the latter to be terrorists. For example, the bombs in Kuwait, and the latest bombings in Paris. These are clear acts of terrorism.

[Question] And what is your attitude toward this kind of terrorism?

[Answer] I repudiate it unconditionally.

[Question] You always talk about the /Arab nation,/ but the Arabs never stop fighting among themselves.

[Answer] That is simple. Imagine France divided into 22 states, most of them occupied by a foreign country. At a given moment the Israelis take over Bordeaux (/Qadhdhafi has read my dossier and knows that I was born there/). Do you think there could be unanimity to kick out the invader?

[Question] Finally, then, no one wants that unity, much less the great powers?

[Answer] Exactly. But we must distinguish between the superpowers. The Americans are imperialists; the Soviets can be considered friends. Believe me, however: Libya is not in the Soviet camp. On the contrary, it is among the non-aligned countries. Therefore, it is not necessary for Libya to be in complete agreement with Moscow. We are alert, and we are prudent.

Specter, utopia, dream, lie. There is a little of all this in the enigmatic Qadhdhafi. He asserts, among other things, that he has nothing to do with international terrorism, while numerous sources claim that there are 18 terrorist training camps in his territory. He denies it. According to him, a deliberately aggressive element of the press is telling these stories. A controlled, directed press. It is almost always very close to the positions of Libya's enemies. In revenge, Qadhdhafi has often officially supported liberation movements: Obviously, for him the Palestinians are the highest priority; then there are the /Polisario/ (although he has cut off that aid since his /alliance/ with Hassan II), the revolutionaries in Ethiopia before Mengistu, those in Guinea-Bissau, those in Mozambique, those in Rhodesia, the Moro Muslims in the Philippines, the IRA, and even, a few years ago, the /Black Panthers/ in the United States. He is extremely discreet with regard to the Afghan resistance. In all these cases, he does not specify whether the bombings are acts of war or of terrorism.

/Libya might well not have existed. It is Qadhdhafi who has made it a modern state, overthrowing the old and corrupt King Idris who was allied with Great Britain. Libya is three times as big as France, and has 3 million inhabitants, half of them foreigners. Seventy percent of its territory is desert. Oil is its only resource. The saturation of the oil market has caused it to lose 50 percent of its financial revenues. The coastal strip is now a hotbed of activity: refineries, steel plants, model farms. Its Navy (80,000 men, plus 10,000 volunteers from all the Arab and African states, wretches struggling for survival who have joined the Islamic Legion) is disproportionately large. It has 550 jet fighters (of which 100 are French Mirages; France is Libya's second-largest supplier of weapons after the Soviet Union), 3,000 tanks, 4,000 artillery pieces, and all kinds of missiles. Its military budget amounts to more than 26 percent of the gross national product. Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi is a mystic, but not a fundamentalist. He is above all a believer and a thinker; he has come up with a third path (his Green Book) between capitalism and socialism. Power belongs to the people through consultation, popular committees and congresses of the masses. Therefore there is no parliament or deputies (who betray the people), nor are there elections. He goes regularly to the desert to meditate. His faith is unshakable. He has survived four attempts on his life./

Socialist Messianism

Socialist messianism is not peculiar to him. The /French Socialist Party/ began to do the same thing the day after its victory in 1981. Our Socialists were ready to support the battles of all guerrillas throughout the world. It is also true that now Qadhafi has made the Tripoli Airport off limits to air pirates. The man cannot be classified as completely black or white. But it is true that portraying him constantly as the great orchestrator of international terrorism hides the true culprits. We must look in other places: in Syria, where Hafez al-Assad is lighting fuses all over the Middle East; in Iran, where Khomeini is continuing his blackmail with the four French hostages; and in Moscow, which holds the record for air piracy, having killed the 289 passengers of the Korean Airlines flight in mid-air, and having tried to assassinate the Pope. I left Qadhafi, and he went off to pray in the desert, 400 kilometers from Tripoli. Thus he renewed his religious quest, his crazy dream of an Islamic republic extending from the Atlantic to the Red Sea.

8926

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MOROCCO

BRIEFS

ARAB MONETARY FUND AGREEMENT--Abu Dhabi, 25 Mar (QNA)--A loan agreement was signed in Abu Dhabi today between the Arab Monetary Fund and Morocco. According to the agreement, the Arab Monetary Fund will give a loan of 875,000 Arab dinars, equivalent to \$6.5 million, to help alleviate the deficit in the Moroccan balance of payments. The loan will be paid back in four equal 6-month installments, the first of which is due after 28 months, with an annual interest rate ranging between 3.75-4.75 percent. [Summary] [Doha QNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Mar 86 GF] /9365

CSO: 4500/106

TUNISIA

TUNIS PRESS REPRINTS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST FRENCH ENVOY

PM251412 Paris LE MONDE in French 22 Mar 86 p 36

[Michel Deure dispatch: "Government Daily Prints Article Which Insults French Ambassador"]

[Text] Tunis--Although the incredible "French socialist plot" against Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali revealed by confidential pamphlet NOUVELLE SOLIDARITE in its 7 March edition seems to have gone unnoticed in Paris, the same is not true of Tunis. Indeed some newspapers give it extensive coverage.

One week ago the biweekly LES ANNONCES published excerpts from the article on the front page under a headline printed in red. It was reprinted in extenso by government daily LA PRESSE on Thursday, 20 March.

The newspaper admits that this "plot" strikes it as "very unlikely." But, strangely enough it prints all the details, covering the accusations made by NOUVELLE SOLIDARITE: The socialist government--from the Elysee to PS headquarters--allegedly sought to change the Tunisian constitutional process whereby the prime minister succeeds the head of state, in favor of former Interior Minister Driss Guiga (who has been living abroad since he was sentenced to 10 years' hard labor following the January 1984 bread riots) and, indirectly of Libya.

The "internal and external aspects" of this "destabilization" operation were allegedly coordinated by Eric Rouleau, France's ambassador to Tunis, who is the object of various unkind remarks. In fact the fantastical scenario presented by NOUVELLE SOLIDARITE cannot be taken seriously by anybody. There is, therefore, reason to wonder what the reasons were for giving it such publicity, clearly tolerated by the authorities when, in the past several newspapers--oppositions newspapers admittedly--were penalized for attacking a friendly country or head of state.

It is true that the Socialist government under accusation has now given way to another government in Paris. On the other hand France's ambassador is still at his post. The highly discourteous remarks made on his activities which have now been published in the local press are not likely to make his task easier.

/12913

CSO: 4500/109

IRAQ

CHIEF OF STAFF REVIEWS ARMY'S HISTORY, DEVELOPMENT

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Jan 86 p 4

[Interview with Staff General 'Abd-al-Jawad Dhanun, army chief of staff, by Sa'di Fukayh: "Studying Experience Gained from War and Exploiting It Ideally; Iraqi Army Has Bright History and Open Horizons for Progress"]

[Text] In this interview, we started with historical glimpses recounting the story of the foundation of the Iraqi army with careful details and interesting information. We then went on to examine the plotting and hardships which the process of building this impregnable bastion went through until it was taken by a brave knight who has played an extraordinary and distinguished role in Iraqi and Arab history.

These issues and others are the issues forming the basis of the press interview conducted by AL-JUMHURIYAH with Staff Gen 'Abd-al-Jawad Dhanun, the army chief of staff, on the 65th anniversary of the birth of our valiant army, as you will find, dear reader, in the next few lines appearing on the occasion of this anniversary that is dear to our hearts.

Modest Beginnings for Foundation

[Question] What, in your opinion, are the most important historical phases and turning points through which the heroic Iraqi army has gone from its founding until now?

[Answer] On this occasion that is dear to our hearts, we recall with great pride the initial phases of the foundation of this impregnable shield for the Arab nation and for the rising Iraqi nation. The steadfast army of Iraq was formed on 6 January 1921 when the first official meeting was held by a number of Iraqi officers led by Major General Ja'far al-'Askari, who was appointed at the time minister of defense to carry out the task of forming the Iraqi national army. The meeting place was the residence of 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Khudayri, located in Bab al-Sharqi area on the Euphrates River bank.

At that meeting, lengthy discussions were held on several issues, including military ranks, military uniforms, cadres, salaries, and military terminology, which were mostly Turkish at the time and which needed to be Iraqized. The Iraqization was helped by the presence of a number of officers who had served in the Hejazi army and the Syrian Arab army. That was the beginning.

The first formation of the Iraqi army was tantamount to a headquarters to which were attached four departments, namely transport, administration, supplies, and accounts. There was no medical department because there was no physician with a military rank. After that meeting, the Iraqi officers serving in the Ottoman army were summoned for registration. They immediately responded to the call and registered their names within the period from 15 January-12 February of the same year. It is worth noting that the position of the army chief of staff was filled on 12 February 1921. The position was then called the military chief of staff and was filled by Colonel B. G. Joyce, a British adviser who actually held powers by far exceeding the powers called for by the position. Such was Britain's, and the colonialists', policy.

If we turn to the size of the army agreed upon at the time, we find that the decision to form the army called for the following initial formation:

A total of 24 infantry regiments, 6 cavalry brigades, and 6 machinegun detachments, in addition to the other complementary services, such as transportation. To implement the cadres policy, two regiments, namely the 1st Infantry Regiment and the 2d Infantry Regiment, were formed on 28 July and 10 August 1921. The Ministry of Defense then occupied its headquarters, which continues to exist until the present.

This is a simple and accurate glimpse of the formation of our valiant army. As for the historical turning points, they are embodied in developing this army's armament capabilities. The arming was generally done by the British until the 14 July 1958 revolution came, which led the army completely into the eastern camp for well-known reasons. Thus, the equipping of the army continued to be unilateral until the people's great revolution of 17-30 July 1968 came to crystallize a modern concept advocated by the builder of the glory of the rising Iraq, Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God keep him. This is the concept of diverse armament sources. We thus have the option of choosing the best and latest weapons. This is what we fundamentally feel at present. I believe that this is the important turning point in the national army's history. From the mobilizational angle, the important turning point in the national army's history. From the mobilizational angle, the important turning points are embodied in the experience gained during the combat against the Zionist enemy in 1948, 1967, and 1973. The most important turning point is the battle of the Arabs, the glorious battle of Saddam's Qadisiyah, against the malicious Persian enemy under the historic leadership of the new Iraq and of the principled course established and strengthened by President Saddam Husayn, may God keep him. The sun of pure Iraqi Arab military doctrine has risen with these new concepts.

Lofty Peak of Leadership

[Question] What is the historic impact of President Saddam Husayn's leadership on forming and building the Iraqi army in comparison with the impact of the previous well-known leaders?

[Answer] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God keep him, played the biggest and most distinguished role in building the Iraqi armed forces when he laid down the basic bricks pertaining to the organizational, training, and armament aspects of this army. His excellency has constantly supervised the training through his repeated visits to the field and his conferences and meetings with the commanders and officers. The outcome of his instructions is reflected in the reality and proven by real combat during our just battle against the cowardly Persian enemy. They have truly been sound instructions emanating from creative military thinking.

To dwell on the details of the activities and feats accomplished by the triumphant commander in building the armed forces would require several volumes to explain these feats. We must note here that his excellency's thinking on the army's military structure has been discussed in detail at al-Bakr Higher Military Studies University. However, we should in this quick summary, underline with utter pride and appreciation the president's strategic viewpoint on building the armed forces and building the people militarily through the theory of the "fighting people" which his excellency has preached and which includes all the segments of society without any exception, with men playing their role, women their role, and youth their role. We are thus building the fighting people who safeguard their land and their dignity.

But if we return to the second part of the question, then comparing the leadership of struggler Leader President Saddam Husayn with the previous leaders means comparing a giant with dwarfs. I find myself fully justified when I say: "What has one to do with the other? The leader president has reached a lofty and unprecedented leadership peak in Iraqi and Arab history.

Escalating Development

[Question] Our national army has waged throughout its glorious history more than one war for our national and pan-Arab causes. How would you draw up a comparative development picture of the conditions of our valiant army during these wars?

[Answer] Yes, our national army has waged more than one war. However, the wars waged prior to the inception of the glorious 17-30 July revolution were not serious enough to demonstrate the hidden strengths of our army. The June 1967 war lasted no more than a few days and our army participated in it in its final days. The October 1973 war was the longest war against the Zionist entity but the failure to notify Iraq of its timing did not give the Iraqi army the opportunity to take part in it from the first clash. Despite this, the participation came after a ceaseless tank march which did not stop until it reached the gates of Damascus which our army protected from falling because it was the party's and revolution's army and because it participated with a very high morale and with a heroic enthusiasm which amazed both enemy and friend.

Throughout all these phases and wars, the Iraqi army's development, especially in the wake of the July 1968 revolution, continued to escalate, thanks to the

boundless support of Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, who has established the mainstays of Iraq's dealings with all countries, excluding Israel. This is why all the links constituting an obstacle in the face of developing the army and of meeting all the missing requirements needed by the army have been eliminated, thus making the army stronger and firmer. This is in addition to the great training and the magnificent development undergone by the new Iraqi citizen in our beloved Iraq.

Leader's Ideal Management

[Question] Where do you put the phase of the Iraq-Iran war in your assessment of the phases of the Iraqi army's development?

[Answer] We have already noted that the most important phase of capable and significant development came in the wake of the glorious 17-30 July revolution and under the leadership of the venerable struggler President Saddam Husayn, may God keep him. This development has also continued throughout the war years.

Insofar as the Iraq-Iran war is concerned, it is the most sophisticated and the longest war when compared with previous wars, including World War II, because it is distinguished from all these wars by the use of the most sophisticated weapons, not to mention the length of the front which amounts to nearly 1,200 km of varied terrain, including mountains, hills, plains, and marshlands. It is no secret that each of these terrains requires special equipment. This is why the development here has occurred as a form of mobilizational development which provides for flexibility and maneuverability. Flexibility dictates--and this is what is actually happening--that we can shift certain forces from sector to sector with utmost speed so that they may perform a certain duty in the new sector. With his customary intellectual flexibility and his penetrating insight into military affairs, the leader president has been rotating the forces in an ideal manner, thus spoiling many of the enemy's malicious plans. Moreover, his excellency's presence in the field and his management of the battles have had the greatest impact in settling the decision and scoring the victory in all the battles. The process of building the armed forces in the wartime has been a dual process including first the acquisition of sophisticated weapons and then their proper use. We cannot use sophisticated weapons well if we do not have fighters who are developed intellectually, culturally, and scientifically. The leader president has put the absolute emphasis on the importance of education and culture in the army. I wish to cite his excellency's statements in this regard to embody this aspect in his immortal historic words: "I advise you to read so that the world's armies may not say that the Iraqis have commanders and officers who have accumulated excellent experience in war but who are uneducated militarily and in other respects." It is a military equation that science and art stand on one side and weapons and experience on the other. I believe that the Iraq-Iran war is the most important and serious phase of our nation's and people's history, not just the history of our valiant armed forces.

Numerous Factors Behind Our Army's Strength

[Question] What, in your viewpoint, are the factors and reasons behind the Iraqi army's position and status among the world's armies throughout this army's history and in the current phase?

[Answer] One of the most important factors and reasons behind all this, especially in the current phase, is the presence of the wise commander, his advanced thinking, his ideal action, and his sound planning of the country's resources to achieve advancement, progress, and growth for our country and to bolster directly the position and strength of our army.

This is on the one hand. On the other hand, there is the matter of securing all the armed forces' requirements, beginning with armaments and ending with clothing, health care, and a proper position in society.

There is, moreover, the matter of mobilizing the masses and of arming them in an organized manner for the sake of a just cause in which they believe and which they defend. Other factors include the ceaseless and highly efficient training, the experience gained from the war, and other factors and reasons which neither time nor the present situation permit discussing in detail because we are engaged in war with a fierce and malicious enemy.

The Iraqi army's status materialized when the entire world saw with its own eyes how the Iraqis have been able to fight an evil enemy all this time and to triumph over him despite the evident differences in the size of population, area, strategic depth, and other aspects. Some international circles favored the chances of the enemy's air force and considered it the fifth strongest air force in the world. But we have destroyed this air force and rendered it long ago incapable of interfering effectively in the course of the battles. But more important than this or that, the entire world has come to realize that we have an extraordinary commander who has sound foresight, enlightened thought, and a correct view of affairs--a commander embodied in the person of President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, and in the historic leadership of the great Iraq.

[Question] Can you tell us, with facts and events, about the Arab wars and about the principle of Arab solidarity in the past and at present?

[Answer] I have already pointed out what the Iraqi army did in the Arab wars against the Zionist entity and demonstrated how our army performed an honorable role in those wars. Our fearless air eagles struck the first blow on the western front, in addition to the blows dealt by our armored divisions on the eastern front. If we examine matters deeply, we would find that Salah-al-Din forces remain deployed on the eastern front for more than 2 years to carry out any combat duty, in addition to the squadrons of planes, called a "decision force," on the western front. We will say no more than what the triumphant leader said when he instructed us with the words: "Your army is the Arab nation's army."

We are fighting nowadays to avert the danger from the Arab Gulf first and from the Arab nation in the second place. We are fatefully and historically

in solidarity with all Arabs. But what did some Arab regimes do while we were fighting for our rights and in defense of our soil and honor? They have not been content with taking a neutral spectator's stance but have served the enemy and aided him in all spheres. It is no secret that I mean basically al-Asad's and al-Qadhdhafi's regimes. We will not forget the role Hafiz al-Asad's regime played in serving the Iranian air force's attempt against al-Walid air base and this regime's blocking of the Iraqi oil pipeline which passes through Syrian territory. This is the most malicious operation known to Arab history. What these regimes are doing is far below the minimum limits of honor and Arabism, not just of Arab solidarity.

Ceaseless Pan-Arab Role

[Question] What, in your view, is the Iraqi army's role in the coming phases of the struggle against the enemies of Iraq and of the Arab nation?

[Answer] The answer to this question emanates from the thinking of our leader's party, the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, which states that our central cause is the cause of the struggle for the Palestinian presence. This being the case, all the elements of strength flow into the pan-Arab framework, including the development of the army so that it may be able to meet its commitments when the duty calls.

From what I have said above, we conclude that the main enemy is, to our mind, the Zionist entity which is supported by imperialism. As for the other enemies, they are the cliques of mullahs in Tehran who can be considered transient rulers who will quickly disappear from the arena of power for several reasons, including the fact that their peoples reject their domination, brutality and oppression.

We feel sufficiently strong and impregnable to be confident of victory in all the future phases of our historical struggle against the enemies of Iraq, including the Persians and others, and the enemies of the Arabs, including the Zionists and the malicious racists, because we live in strength and impregnability guided by clear thinking and a clear strategy charted by our wise leadership with rare historical awareness.

[Question] Does the chief of staff of the heroic Iraqi army wish to add anything to enrich the subject which concerns all the Iraqis, the Arabs, and the world on the anniversary of the formation of the great Iraqi army?

[Answer] We renew the pledge to the builder of the glory of the new Iraq, to Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God keep him, that the armed forces will always live up to his excellency's good opinion in their magnificent combat performance against the tyrannical Persian enemy, that they will always remain at his command to perform their pan-Arab duties, and that we will continue to march under the banner of his enlightened military thinking and his sound instructions which always put us on the right path. God is the giver of success.

8494/9435
CSO: 4404/223

SAUDI ARABIA

JOURNALISTS TOUR MILITARY SURVEY DEPARTMENT, STAFF COLLEGE

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 21 Feb, 7 Mar 86

[Articles by Amir al-Siba'i and Sultan 'Abdallah: "The Saudi Arabian Armed Forces and the Language of the Times"]

[21 Feb 86 pp 60-62]

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, by virtue of advanced scientific planning and an indefatigable persistence, is building up its entire armed forces, which are one of the most important factors in the defense of religion, honor and the people.

In the comprehensive construction of a modern, advanced military force, Saudi Arabia is concentrating on people, who according to all military principles and social laws are the foundation for all construction, the light which reveals stumbling blocks along the road to the future, and the hand which charts the course for coming generations.

Second Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Prince Sultan bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz sums up the military defense strategy on which the Saudi armed forces are being based in the following words: "With money, you can buy the most modern, the most advanced weapons from any of the arms-producing countries of the world. Along with these weapons you can buy the expertise which will help you comprehend them and understand how they are used. But you cannot--nay, it is impossible to--buy the human beings who will use these weapons to defend the religion, the land, honor and the people. The nation has its people, who will defend it. Reliance on the people, i.e. on alert, trained, qualified people, is the cornerstone for building any force. The nation will be strong and invincible if the people are made strong, and it will be weak if the people are weak. The rule is that every material means can be bought, except for people."

This month AL-HAWADITH had the opportunity to examine at close hand some of the military achievements realized in Saudi Arabia as a whole and in the Riyadh area.

A 2-day tour of inspection was arranged by the Defense Ministry, covering the Military Survey Department, the Staff College, King 'Abd-al-'Aziz War College, and the war factories in al-Kharj, about 60 kilometers from Riyadh.

The Military Survey Department building, which was recently built on the outskirts of Riyadh, has incorporated technical and scientific features well-suited to the nature of the geographic and military work carried out by the department and to the technical production of aerial photographs and maps and the chemical substances used in their production. This necessitated the vast pool of water in the main courtyard of the building, which provides a constant, specific degree of humidity for the laboratories, attractively grouped around the pool in a circle, which draw, print and produce maps and photographs.

Before the tour of the building's sections began, Staff Maj Gen Muri' bin Hasan al-Shahrani, head of the department, attended by section chiefs and the directors of the aerial, marine and land survey and the photography and printing sections, spoke about the department's functions. He said, "The job of the Military Survey Department is to collect the information needed to produce maps and related drawings for use by the armed forces. There are many such items, such as aerial photographs and films, satellite photographs, and data tapes.

"In order to achieve all this, we pursue many activities, such as collecting information obtained by many means, mostly from the air via satellites and infra-red and radar photography. All of this information is received, compiled and sorted, and then we process it and turn it into maps. In addition, information is collected by means of ground surveys."

AL-HAWADITH asked, "For example, have you received the photographs which Prince Sultan bin Sultan brought back from his space trip?"

Maj Gen al-Shahrani replied, "The photographs which Prince Sultan brought back went to the research institute. Space photographs are many and varied. There are survey pictures, and atmospheric photos from space, and pictures which go for other uses. We concentrate on geological photographs and industrial information about settlements, roads, housing developments, and other such changes."

AL-HAWADITH asked, "How do you get the satellite information and photographs?"

Maj Gen al-Shahrani replied, "We get space information from the American space center or from the Kingdom's scientific research institute. Space sciences are beginning to become more important as a source of precise information, and we are trying to deal with them to enable the decision-maker to make his decisions in light of correct, accurate information."

"The department's second main activity is to process, sift and verify this information. This is done by the aerial survey section, which verifies the aerial photographs taken by planes before they are printed and distributed.

"The third activity centers around preparing data in order to produce enough maps and pictures to meet the needs of various government departments, revising maps, and pinpointing the sites and areas which would be suitable for the movement of armed forces units, planes and equipment.

"Our fourth activity consists of the marine survey, the compilation of marine relief maps, the processing of such information, and the production of such maps.

"The fifth activity is administrative, and consists of acquiring, reviewing, storing and distributing maps. This section, called the supply section, ensures the materials needed for map production and then the distribution of the product to government offices.

"Our functions go beyond the military context and extend to civilian matters. Decision-making always needs all the information which is available. The armed forces do not launch any operation without a comprehensive overview, clear-cut conceptual guidelines, and a general outline, all of which requires precise military and civilian maps.

"Our department was established as a section in late 1968, and then developed into a general department in 1976. During this period, the department went through several stages before becoming what it is today.

"In setting up the department, we looked at the rest of the world and at what was being done around us. The world has made great progress in the fields of technology and the development of military potentials, both of which require extensive data bases. We depend on the most precise and the most modern methods, and computerization is one of the steps we have undertaken. The super-powers have relied on this same step to consolidate their capabilities and strengths. We have found that the international armament systems necessitated the use of the computer, so we set up the digital map project. However, computerization has not eliminated the role of everyday work in production. The system whereby data is received, sorted and transformed into action is a one-of-a-kind computer system used only in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

"Our cooperation with the American space center in the matter of data and photographs dates back to an American decision made in the late Sixties, when a flood of satellite information began pouring in. The decision provided for the distribution and sale of non-military photographs and information to some countries. We receive this information from Houston, and we try to make use of it for specifically civilian needs. As I said, it is everyday information which we take as it is, and to which we add data from our Dhahran center. The station near Riyadh, which will be devoted to drawing and revising maps and collecting, sorting and classifying photographs, will start up soon."

After this statement, AL-HAWADITH toured the various sections and laboratories of the survey department. The tour began with the planetarium, which is a small model of the heavens, the stars, and the progression of day and night.

In a living experiment of how the planetarium works, the lights were put out and an expert explained how the stars are observed, how the signs of the zodiac and the lines of latitude and longitude are determined, and how this knowledge is used in collecting data about the earth.

In the computer section, an Arabic-language computer capable, in conjunction with other equipment, of storing 2 billion characters was demonstrated.

A live experiment was conducted on the equipment used in drawing digital and ordinary maps, and ways of printing relief maps were demonstrated. The section which produces large-scale maps for planes and ships, the section which produces smaller maps for the land forces, the special publication sections, the map storage area, and the map archives, which supplies all the map needs of the Kingdom's military and civilian sectors, were all shown.

The archives, or library, contains a set of geographic maps of the Islamic world, 160,000 of which were distributed to Islamic countries at the instructions of Prince Sultan bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The phrase "Saudi Memory Bank" would aptly sum up the role of the Military Survey Department, which gives the armed forces and the political command a precise picture of field geography before decisions are made and implemented. This "memory bank," which never forgets, makes a mistake or neglects anything, must be capable of collecting, sorting and employing data and photographs to protect and defend. The Saudi Military Survey Department is truly capable of carrying out this mission in a scientific, advanced manner.

[7 Mar 86 pp 27-28]

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is completing its development of its defensive military forces according to schedule, with the intention of building up a force capable, by virtue of its own skills and capabilities, of protecting Saudi Arabia's borders, body politic, and national principles.

For example, the plans to construct complete military cities throughout the country are particularly important, because they give the programs for building a modern defensive force a greater impetus in the direction of achieving their goals.

The Kingdom, placing its bets on people before anything else, has given major attention to developing the Command and Staff College, one of the few such military colleges existing in Arab and Islamic countries. In the span of a relatively few years, this college has been able to graduate a great many command and staff officers for the Saudi army and for the armies of some friendly countries, and has achieved competence in a field the benefits of which the Arab countries have traditionally tried to obtain from staff and command colleges in Western countries.

The Command and Staff College, which has moved from its old building in central Riyadh to its new building about 60 miles from downtown Riyadh, occupies a mid-point in the triangle which also includes the Military Survey Department and the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz War College.

In the course of a tour of the survey department, the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz War College, the Staff College, and the war plants, AL-HAWADITH had the opportunity to observe conditions in the new building for the Command and Staff College, which was completed only 7 months ago. Prior to the AL-HAWADITH delegation, no other press delegation has ever been received there.

The introductory interview, which took place in the office of College Commander Staff Maj Gen Faysal bin al-Mu'ayyin al-Jawdi, with the section heads in attendance, covered the nature of the college's mission.

Maj Gen al-Jawdi said, "The college accepts Arab officers in its classes, and gives them the opportunity to study and become qualified as staff and command officers. Right now there are 26 Arab officers--one Jordanian, two North Yemenis, one Sudaní, two Somalis, and two officers from each of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

"The higher military studies offered by the study programs provide the graduates with a Masters degree in military sciences, and also give those graduates who so desire the opportunity to enroll in military colleges in other countries in order to specialize further in military sciences.

"The subject of space as a military science was introduced into the college as an extra-curricular subject, not a main course. However, nothing prevents an officer from taking part in some studies pertaining to this new science."

At present a plan to set up an air defense section is being studied, and the college commander hopes it can start up by the next school session.

After the introductory interview in the college commander's office, the group went to the lecture hall, which is equipped with all the modern equipment required for such a hall.

The college commander welcomed the AL-HAWADITH delegation in a speech in which he said, "In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: honored guests, peace be upon you, and God's mercy and blessings. Today the Command and Staff College of the armed forces is honored by your visit, which without a doubt symbolizes the firm bonds and ties between the journalist and the combat soldier, wherever he may be in our beloved kingdom. We all know your strong concern and desire to spread the truth about the remarkable development taking place in the ranks of our armed forces to the entire world, which obliges us to tell you whatever facts you want to know about the progress and activities of the armed forces Command and Staff College. This college is the major educational establishment for the armed forces, and it enables the officer to work, after graduation, in all military command and staff areas and fields. It also prepares him to hold senior command positions and to take on military responsibilities, in the course of which he will gain administrative and field experience for promotion to higher military positions.

"In our day and age, military science has become an independent specialization involving many fields. We must redouble our efforts and institute, on a timely basis, whatever new, beneficial things will make our armed forces

a unique, sublime example of organization, armament, training and planning, so that the continued scientific and practical development of the armed forces can be easily achieved, armed with the generous convictions which represent the firm foundations of our armed forces.

"Those who have followed the rapid growth in the military infrastructure, the equipment, and the armament of our armed forces know the deep concern and consuming efforts made by His Royal Highness the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general to supplement and provide all the requirements and needs of the armed forces, because of his belief that these armed forces are the strong armor which will protect our beloved holy places and our great land from any aggression intended to destroy or dishonor them.

"My brothers, today we are happy to meet with our brothers, who are waging the holy war with their pens and ideas, just as we are with our weapons, our blood, and our souls. We just want to repeat that we welcome you among your brothers enrolled in the Command and Staff College. May God protect our supreme commander, crown prince and beloved minister. Peace be with you."

Faculty Member Staff Brig Gen Jamil Shuwayl gave a brief history of the college and its goals, saying, "The Senior Officers' Institute was founded in 1958 to meet the Saudi Arabian army's needs for officers qualified to perform the duties and responsibilities of commanders and staff officers on the battalion, brigade and division levels. Nine sessions were held at the institute, the last being in 1967, and during this period 174 officers graduated from the institute. During this institute's 9-year existence, rapid developments took place throughout Saudi Arabia in general, and in the armed forces sector in particular. Because of the expansion in armed forces formations, the need arose for qualified officers possessing scientific skills, military command capabilities, and high planning skills. Therefore, at that time the army chief of staff decided to change the officers' institute into the Command and Staff College, to keep pace with our country's growth. After detailed studies, including field trips, a plan to change the officers' institute into the Command and Staff College was drawn up. This plan was approved by Cabinet Decree No 823 of 26 May 1968, and Royal Decree No 13-M of 18 August 1968 was issued approving the organizational structure of the Saudi Command and Staff College. There was a 31-month period of preparation, after which the first session began on 27 February 1971. According to Article 2 of the statute of the Saudi Command and Staff College, the college's mission was 'to train an elite corps of Saudi Arabian officers to undertake command and staff duties and responsibilities in the various military commands and formations.'

"As the process of developing and building up the armed forces continued, the need emerged for qualified, skilled officers having high scientific capabilities in command and military planning in all branches of the armed forces. For this reason, detailed studies were made, and field trips were made to joint command and staff colleges of high repute in friendly countries. As a

result of these field visits and studies, a plan for an armed forces command and staff college was drawn up and approved, and the college was re-organized on that basis. The curriculum for the thirteenth session, which is now in progress, was revised in order to meet the demands of the Saudi armed forces.

"The Command and Staff College's mission is to train an elite corps of Saudi armed forces officers to undertake command and staff duties and responsibilities in the various military commands and formations, and to conduct the military studies and research needed to develop the military mentality. The college comes under the jurisdiction of the chief of staff.

"The present session lasts 42 weeks, or 1,260 study hours, divided into four phases. In the first phase, which lasts 7 weeks or 210 study hours, general subjects are taught. In the second stage, which lasts 15 weeks or 450 study hours, staff duties are taught. In the third stage, which lasts 10 weeks or 300 hours, tactical subjects are taught, and specialized exercises are conducted by the various wings of the armed forces. In the fourth stage, which lasts 10 weeks or 300 study hours, joint planning subjects are taught, and joint exercises are held.

"The instructional effort is based on the student's efforts. The teachers use lectures and discussions to present their topics, in addition to exercises on maps or plans.

"The conditions for enrollment in the college permit the officer to nominate himself for the college entrance examination if he meets the following conditions:

1. He must hold a baccalaureate in military sciences or the equivalent;
2. He must have completed the required courses in his wing;
3. He must have successfully completed the advanced courses in his wing;
4. At the time of enrollment in the college, he must be less than 40 years old;
5. He must have served at least 5 years in military units or schools;
6. He must hold the rank of lieutenant colonel, major or captain, and must have held the rank of captain for 4 years;
7. His commanding officer must recommend him for the course;
8. He must have proved capable and skilled in his former activities;
9. His security clearance grade must be "good" at least;
10. He must be worthy of carrying out command and staff operations in the future;

11. He must pass the entrance examination with a grade of 70 percent;
12. He must pass a personal interview.

"The college grants the graduate a masters degree in military sciences, which qualifies him to take higher military studies at war or national defense colleges outside the Kingdom."

The college faculty member said, "I must point out that the curriculum is not fixed, but is constantly developing along with field military action in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the world, as well as with developments in staff and command sciences.

"There are no foreign instructors at the Command and Staff College, but liaison officers have been commissioned in accordance with the ongoing contacts with militarily-advanced states, so as to follow the latest innovations and developments which could be added to the curriculum."

The college commander said, "Naturally, we have not attained perfection. We are seeking more information from the boundless sea of knowledge, and we are always sending officers overseas to increase our knowledge. However, that does not eclipse the basic fact that our college is very advanced, and offers command knowledge and science to officers representing all the military and security organizations in the Kingdom. We have officers from the National Guard, the Border Patrol, the Interior Ministry, General Intelligence, and other military sectors, which gives us the chance to exchange information among the Kingdom's military units, as well as with command and staff colleges in other countries. Bangladesh, for example, has a foreign command and staff college based on the British system, and its military level is very good. We also work with some Arab countries, and have sent staff officers to Jordan, the Sudan, and Iraq. We also worked with Egypt, before this cooperation was suspended because of emergency conditions."

As we toured the various sections, we saw that the building has an audio library, a room for cultural activities, exercise rooms, study halls, halls for war games, a sand table room, halls for command post exercises, a drawing section, a translation section, a teaching aids section, and a printing press.

In the library for written materials there is a group of books which review the principles of combat from the time of the Islamic conquest to the most recent wars and battles. For example, there is a group of Arabic writings on the art of war, a weapons encyclopedia in Arabic, and a set of books by Montgomery entitled "The Path to Leadership."

At the center of the college campus are the mosque, the sports fields, and the officers' houses.

Before the tour ended, there was a buffet prepared especially for our visit, attended by the senior officers. We asked the commander of the college, "About the Lebanese war, i.e. the Israeli invasion which reached the capital city, Beirut--do you teach anything at the college about the experiences and results of this invasion?"

He replied, "The Lebanese war is being taught from the written, theoretical standpoint, not from the visual angle, because there are no films showing what actually happened in an impartial, serious manner. The Falkland Islands war was discussed from the theoretical and visual standpoint, on the basis of tapes and pictures characterized by a reasonable degree of factuality and impartiality. It is not so for the Lebanese war, because the films which have been made or distributed lack the desired neutrality."

We asked, "What about the Iraq-Iran war?"

Maj Gen al-Jawdi said, "The facts of the Iraq-Iran war are being studied in writing and in theory."

We asked, "Is there any cooperation between yourselves and Arab countries which have military regimes of a socialist nature?"

Maj Gen al-Jawdi replied, "We have no staff officers from the Arab countries you are referring to because the educational curricula and military terminology is different. However, we did cooperate with Syria during the 1973 war."

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CSO: 4404/268

SAUDI ARABIA

YOUTH CARE OFFICIAL EXTOLS KINGDOM'S PROGRESS

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 21 Mar 86 pp 26-29

[Interview with Prince Faysal Ibn Fahd, Head of Youth Care, by Amin al-Siba'i and Sultan 'Abdallah: "Islam Is Protecting the World from Collapse"]

[Text] An article in a French magazine provoked the disapproval of Prince Faysal Ibn Fahd, general head of youth care in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The article stated in effect that Saudi Arabia is a land of oil, desert, horses and nothing else.

The cause of Prince Faysal Ibn Fahd's fierce outburst, which everyone who met him in his office in the youth care building in Riyadh noticed, was not disapproval of the gross exaggerations and twisted information about Arab countries and Arab issues which some Western writers keep repeating; this situation is to be found in more than one country and more than one media organization connected overtly or covertly with circles hostile to the Arab nation. Rather, the disapproval was great over the French magazine article, which was based on the premise of distorting the image of Arabs at a time when every achievement which strengthens the mission of the Arabs and Moslems is being twisted on a basis of blind extremism. Prince Faysal, in discussing this matter with AL-HAWADITH's delegation which visited him in his new office, said "Saudi Arabia is proud of its Islamic civilization and holds its head high over the civilized achievements the whole world sees. It does not deny the grace the desert has bestowed upon it and does not deny the grace of the natural resources which God has given it. It does not deny its customs and traditions, and it is sorry over the decline in the tradition of using horses in all its areas of life! We had always hoped that our enemies would base their criticisms on objective foundations which would justify criticism, not distort the facts about a country which is constantly opening its doors to everyone looking for the unvarnished truth. But it appears that distortion is the goal through the false statements and that East is East and West is West."

Conversation with Prince Faysal Ibn Fahd after a comprehensive tour of the athletic and cultural facilities and youth houses which are spread about the areas of the kingdom reveal other features of his personality and give the

discussion a comprehensive character through his treatment of the affairs of the area and the world and ways of preparing Moslem Arab citizens to be worthy of the religious, humanitarian and cultural responsibilities they bear.

At the beginning of the conversation we told Prince Faysal Ibn Fahd:

"During our visit to the war industries buildings yesterday, we passed through an expansive hall and rooms annexed to it which the officer of the facilities told us were 'the factory of men,' that is, the section which is in charge of the task of qualifying people to manufacture weapons and ammunition before they go down into the work field to 'manufacture weapons.' I believe that this label 'the factory of men' fully applies to what you are doing here in youth care, in terms of qualification, guidance, training and culture. The question is, now that the achievement of the first 5-year plans, which helped create the infrastructure for youth care, has been completed, what are the signs of the coming steps which will be taken to reap the fruit of what you have planted in coming years?"

Prince Faysal Ibn Fahd: The question is important. It might be one of the most important questions and one a person is receptive to answering. It is well known that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in its first, second and third plans, and the fourth plan which we are venturing on, had a strategic goal it sought to realize, which is attention to the Saudi people, with attention to the infrastructure or basic structures if one may use the expression in all areas of life in the form of roads, ports, universities, health, young people, sports, social insurance, communications and so forth. The firm bases of this structure have been completed and anyone can see them and sense them. We have started using these achievements in building the features of the present and future; I can give some examples which might explain the picture and provide the answer.

The universities, for example. They have graduated large numbers in past years and the people who have graduated have assumed basic tasks in the government. The graduates of the College of Petroleum and Minerals, for example, which is a specialized university, have assumed basic tasks in the areas of petroleum, minerals, geology and engineering. The health institutes or faculties of medicine have given the kingdom generations of Saudi doctors who are now spread out over everywhere with their expertise, offering the kingdom their expertise in the field of health. Of course, we have not yet become self-sufficient in this area, but we expect that the program of self-sufficiency will be carried out over the next 10 years.

It is not at all easy to build a model or exemplary man. People are not development projects which have their particular specifications. They are not reinforced concrete which you can pattern and whose form you can determine within rigid moulds. Human education has its own rules and dimensions. In order to build a man, you must provide him with security before everything else. History has proved that there is no resurgence, progress or civilization unless the element of security is present.

The element of security, God be praised, is present in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for a basic reason, and we are not content just to declare it, but

indeed we boast of it, and that is the application of almighty glorious God's Islamic law on his land. Because this element is present, every citizen now has the right to express his hopes, aspirations and goals by all ways and means.

It is also well known that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's market is an open one and our economic system is an open one. We do not have any barriers in that direction. The private sector, if it is permissible to label it by this name, although I object to this label because in my opinion there is no one thing by name of the private sector and something else by name of the public sector, but rather citizens working in service of the country, in government positions or in liberal activities -- I can say that the opportunity has been granted, the opportunity to Saudi capital, to work in all areas, domestically and abroad. We are proud to say that this capital is working abroad, and are proud that there are Saudi investments abroad, but the basic element is domestic. The companies, with everything you can call them, from mass transportation companies to factories, media companies and so forth, have come into being and have given young Saudis other opportunities outside those of government positions. Therefore, Saudis have started to build themselves by themselves, by their sheer will, without interference from the government. The government provides the facilities and reduces the obstacles. First of all, it provides security and stability and gives citizens broad scope to choose what they want and to work in a manner which will benefit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the first place.

Another important factor in my opinion is the kingdom's foreign policy, whose results of course are reflected on the domestic situation and on Saudi citizens. This policy, that is, foreign policy, has been a balanced one since the era of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz. We do not interfere in anyone's affairs and do not allow anyone to interfere in our affairs. We thus now have excellent relations, God be praised, with Arab brothers and with all countries of the world. The way is now open before us to work and benefit from Arab and foreign expertise to the extent we can, without giving what they call the foreign complex an opportunity to influence us and our options. I am one of those who believe that expertise is acquired through practice. There is nothing to prohibit temporary, tentative recourse to the assistance of international experts in any area of production in order to benefit from their expertise and train young Saudis at their hands, then put an end to this recourse when young Saudis can settle down in areas of expertise. This is what is actually happening.

The building of young Saudis depends on two basic areas, the area of domestic expertise and the area of the acquisition of expertise from abroad. This is expertise which comes through contact with everything that benefits and expands the horizons of knowledge that other countries have.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the number of the young Saudis who have gone off to specialize and study abroad?

Prince Faysal Ibn Fahd: Their numbers are tremendous. This of course is a personal choice, and they are free as far as their choices go. My belief is that travel abroad has positive features which are much greater than the

negative ones. Travel gives young people the opportunity to get to know the world as it really is. We now have more than 25,000 to 30,000 students studying abroad, of whom about 18,000 are in the United States of America, in the form of civilian and military students. Thousands of graduates have come back to the kingdom and assumed basic tasks on the official and private levels. In brief, I can say that the plan that is being carried out today is the harvest of what was planted in the past. For example, some years ago, a bank was established by the name of the Real Estate Bank. This bank will give any Saudi citizen a loan to build a house on land the government gives him free of charge, and he pays this loan off over 25 years without interest. The bank gives easy loans also to people who want to carry out projects on the same conditions, and through this sort of initiative they can strengthen the personal initiative and incentive to build on the part of every citizen. Resources for building the country have been present. This incentive is the foundation stone of the structure of every country and nation, since no one except the people of a country can build that country.

The Industrial Development Bank, to give another example, has offered loans that have come to several billion riyals to build a sound domestic industry. We have started to reap the fruit in this context. Decrees have been issued compelling companies working in the kingdom to use materials manufactured in the kingdom.

When a student graduates from university, he sets forth with basic guarantees for his life. These begin with his having available to him a house and health guarantees and work opportunities. I have said a number of times, and repeat today, that I would like a single Saudi to come to me and tell me that he has not found work.

AL-HAWADITH: Do statistics exist?

Prince Faysal Ibn Fahd: I now appoint you to bring me a single Saudi who is not finding work. Work areas and opportunities are available to everyone, in government departments and private areas. For example, I have a personnel shortage in the general department of youth and sports and need employees.

Therefore, through everything that has been realized and achieved, participation is established between citizens and the government. The programming process which has been carried out has been set out in a carefully studied, scientific manner. The study of all the projects you have witnessed in your tour has been set out and carried out in a carefully studied manner, taking into consideration the condition of the people and geography of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from industrial facilities to sports facilities to youth houses to low prices for basic materials and electric power to the arrangement of participation by workers in the Jubayl and Yanbu' companies in the ownership of these companies by giving them the right to own shares in these companies without payment of a single piaster. Indeed, the value is deducted from their salaries over a long period. This means that the workers are the real owners of these companies; no media commotion has been stirred up over this step, lest it be misinterpreted.

Where is the right and where is the wrong?

The attempt to answer this question might take days and weeks. The person who is wrong thinks he is right, and the person who is right believes that he is wrong, in a world full of contradictions. We can emerge from this vortex only through a belief in God which does not accept doubt, then we must have confidence in ourselves in a manner which does not accept doubt.

We know that people are people, can be right and wrong, but the more they are right the more proper the results. I would like thus to get to young people, their problems and their future.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where we give much of our attention to young people, we have literary clubs organized in a manner no one would conceive of. These are clubs which bring literary persons and intellectuals together and give them a full opportunity to express themselves and their environment in accordance with what they want.

There are for example emerging literary figures who do not find appropriate opportunities to publish their output and whose books the publishing houses are not willing to print and distribute. The literary clubs are now giving them this opportunity.

We have a society called the society of culture and the arts whose task is to look after all artists and thinkers, from great writers to gifted emerging musicians.

We have the government prize of appreciation which is given each year to three exceptional persons under certain conditions, among them that the age of the nominee for the prize be greater than 50 and that he have had a part in enriching religious, intellectual and literary activity. Many countries of the world give such a prize, but the difference between ours and theirs is that the person who gets the prize here gets a medal, a certificate signed by his majesty the king and 100,000 riyals, paid out to him annually until the end of the winner's life. We know that literary persons are the least blessed of people from the financial standpoint and that one of them may sacrifice his whole life along the roads of learning, culture and literature and not receive the material compensation others beside him have. Will we forget him in the time of munificence? Of course not. He must live without fear or anxiety as others do. Therefore, the allocation of the prize which is paid out to him every year for life has come into being. It is in reality social insurance, or special attention to the group which has enlightened our minds, has given us a light to illuminate our way and in the past has worked by candlelight to build the current generations of civilization.

In another context, in the context of the many examples of our interests, I can point to the foundations on which the programs of the fellowship students we send abroad are built.

We are bound by comprehensive agreements with Arab countries, Islamic countries and other countries of the world to exchange expertise and delegations in the areas of building young people and exchanging delegations. These agreements give us an opportunity to send 600 young people to Europe, Asia

and the Arab countries each summer to make visits to archaeological, scientific and athletic locations in the countries chosen. In exchange for this we accept 600 young people who visit the kingdom and learn about the achievements that have been realized here. This exchange which the government supervises provides additional knowledge and guidance, removed from the temptations and evils of haphazard travel.

I am sorry if I have been long-winded in answering and citing examples. Let me conclude with the statement that we thank God for what has been achieved and for being able to reap what we have planted.

AL-HAWADITH: With regard to the discussion about young people's delegations, we realize that the world is threatened by a wave of serious forms of moral and social aberrance. How do you protect your young people who are traveling and in residence from such plagues?

Prince Faysal Ibn Fahd: First of all, we have a form of protection, if we pursue and apply it, which will ward every plague and every form of deviation away from us, and this immunity or protection is adherence to the belief in Islam. If the belief in Islam is followed, it will protect everyone from every form of disturbance. Islam is a powerful religion which asks the Moslem to condemn things which have been proved by practical evidence to be harmful.

From the time they are born, young people here are presented with the principles of religion, perform the prayer and pursue the rituals of Islam, which implant firm basic values in them. What is desired now, and is actually happening, is that everyone adhere to the principles of religion. I have tested numerous theories in the world, in the capitalist and the communist world, and it has been apparent that forms of deviation come from these two worlds and from their experiences, while no form of moral deviation whatsoever has arisen from us.

Our first task must be to protect our young people from their innovations and acts of heresy, and Islamic belief guarantees this.

Fathers and mothers must bear their responsibilities in full in establishing this protection through proper religious education and the government must perform its task in providing every means of protection to avoid placing young people and their powers in areas of a lethal vacuum. We are performing our role to this end by means of successful steps.

We must realize that the world today has become close-knit, that the age of speed brings dangers nearer, as it reduces distances, and that the effect of what happens one place or another is now swifter. We must give young people self-confidence which will help them venture along the road of life, protected from everything that is harmful and destructive, and we in the kingdom apply every modern means of upbringing.

I am not saying and not claiming that there are not disturbances or cases that provoke anxiety. This is human nature everywhere. However, the degree is very slight in comparison with what is the case among others.

We might at some time in the past have been among those who devoured Western civilization, but ultimately we all agree, aside from the technological considerations, that the West has not exported anything to us that is better than what can be found here. Indeed, we have exported many proper, sound values and principles to the West, and all of them who have visited us acknowledge this fact. They say that the family here, with its principles, its upbringing and its interconnection, gives lessons which they lack in their families and upbringing. We must fight to preserve these characteristics. When King 'Abd-al-'Aziz united this peninsula, he did not do so just in terms of borders or geography; rather, he united its citizens, people and regions over a basic thing, which is Islamic belief, then equality, then social values, then love. We have customary usage which governs people in isolation from defamation and vindictiveness, and that is the customary usage of love. A big person has affection for a small person, a rich person has affection for a poor person, a brother is respected, held in high regard and appreciated. That is, we have provided upbringing and all these values and principles have been firmly implanted within us. Every Arab citizen can sense these facts in our meetings, in the meetings of the king, the meetings of Prince 'Abdallah, Prince Sultan and Prince Salman, and in other meetings of officials which hold an open dialogue between the official and the citizen on every subject, so that everyone may achieve the results which will deeply implant the foundation of society without obstacles, middlemen or barriers. This is us, this is our traditions, this is our life which is founded on everything that will yield benefit to people.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there a body closely following students' tendencies and inclinations and directing each student to the area of specialization in which he shows proficiency, or is the choice of the type of specialized area left to the student himself?

Prince Faysal Ibn Fahd: There are various bodies and entities which do that. I do not call this oversight or surveillance; rather, it is care which encompasses everyone and offers advice to people with scientific inclinations to choose a type of specialized field and gives them equal opportunities and expertise. The final choice is left to the student. There are incentives for students who head toward scientific areas of specialization in all areas and branches. We avoid the elements of imposing choices on students and substitute advice, care, participation in the choice and non-compulsory guidance for those. The material incentives which we offer are enough. I believe that there is no country which gives students a stipend during their period of study such as we do. What is meant by stipend is the provision of basic requirements to students during the period of study. Education in the kingdom has made very vast strides in the area of development. Let us not forget that His Majesty King Fahd was the first minister of education in the kingdom, and his interest in education, sports and everything that helps young people develop is very great. Yesterday, specifically, I signed projects to establish a sports city in al-Mujamma'ah, which is the whole al-Sudayr area. It includes lecture halls, movie houses, youth houses, swimming pools, playing fields, areas for sports hobbies, administrative offices and parks. It is being included among our sports cities which exist in Riyadh, Jiddah, the Eastern Province, Medinah, Mecca, al-Ahsa' and Tabuk. The Islamic youth sports series will be held in the sports city in Mecca, in accordance with

the resolutions of the kings and presidents of the Islamic countries; this series will be held between Mecca and Medinah in 1987. There is coordination between our brother Sharif-al-Din Pirzadah, the secretary general of the Islamic conference, to set the final date, 43 Islamic countries will take part in this series and it will be one of the most enormous series in the world.

AL-HAWADITH: Does cooperation in the area of young people and sports exist between you and the Arab and Islamic countries?

Prince Faysal Ibn Fahd: We have offered material aid estimated at hundreds of millions for the construction of sports cities and youth houses and aid in cash to many Arab and Islamic countries. This is successful investment on behalf of the generations of Arab and Islamic youth, and we will continue this policy, with God's permission, because we believe that good things must encompass and be general among everyone.

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CS0: 4404/267

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

NEW YAR ENVOY--Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal today met in his office at the Foreign Ministry with Ghalib 'Ali Jamil, new YAR ambassador to the Kingdom, who presented to his highness his credentials prior to presenting them to his majesty the king. [Text] [Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Mar 86 GF] /9365

MINISTRY ON 1985 IMPORTS--Riyadh, March 23 (WAKH)--The value of the Kingdom's imports in 1985 amounted to Sr [Saudi riyals] 85.5 billion compared to Sr 118.7 billion in 1984, an official source at the office of the Saudi Finance and National Economy Ministry said. "There is a drop in the value of some imported commodities such as barley, wheat, cement, flour, corn, vegetable oil, milk, meat, and cattle since they are now produced in the Kingdom," the source said. He added that electric equipment ranked first among imported commodities and that they are followed by transport equipment. The source said West European countries occupied the first place in the Kingdom's imports, followed by Asian nations and then the United States and Australia. He added that reduction in prices of imported commodities in 1985 as compared to 1984 ranged between 3 to 41 percent. On the other hand, the source said prices of some commodities like medicines, jewelry, fertilizers, iron bars, and milk have gone up. [Text] [Manama WKAH in English 1630 GMT 23 Mar 86 GF] /9365

CSO: 4400/145

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

LIQUEFIED GAS PRICE--Dubai, March 17 (WAKH)--The Dubai Gas Company (DUGAS) reduced the prices of liquefied gas to dollars 180 per ton respective from March 1, due to decreased demand on gas and desire of the producers to sell surplus gas production, according to AL-BAYAN newspaper of Dubai. The newspaper said reduced gas prices will not affect the estimated Dugas production since prior agreements on purchase were made with various Japanese companies. The last reduction of gas prices was made on February 1, to dollars 207 from dollars 217 per ton in December 1985. [Text] [Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 17 Mar 86 GF] /9365

CSO: 4400/145

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

DRA-USSR PROTOCOL--A scientific cooperation protocol was signed today in Kabul between the DRA Academy of Sciences and the USSR Academy of Sciences. According to this protocol, the Soviet Union is to supply a complex of scientific research and publication equipment, computer programs and other necessary materials included in the joint work plan for the implementation of scientific research. /Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 16 Mar 86 LD/ 12228

CSO: 4665/31

INDIA

GREATER ROLE PLANNED IN NONALIGNED MOVEMENT

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Mar 86 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 11.

After adopting a relatively low key posture during the last two years due to its heavy pre-occupations at home, India is now bracing itself to playing a more dynamic role in the non-aligned movement.

During the few months now left for passing on the chairmanship to Zimbabwe, it hopes to infuse some new life into the movement, with some imaginative initiatives at the Foreign Ministers' conference in Delhi next month followed by the summit in Harare.

As one who inherited the mantle of chairmanship from his mother in tragic circumstances, the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, is anxious to make his due contribution to the non-aligned movement during these two conferences. The preparatory work that is being done seeks to lay the primary emphasis on greater inter-dependence between the non-aligned countries than on the unity of the Third World merely to compel the affluent societies of the West to adopt a more cooperative and sympathetic attitude towards the developing nations.

The discussion in Delhi and Harare will be conducted at two levels to focus global attention on the imperative need for an early end to the nuclear arms race, while striving for a more equitable international economic dispensation. The non-aligned countries will be persuaded to pledge themselves at both these conferences to work unitedly for world peace and also utilise their skills and resources more effectively in tackling the problems of poverty that are common to most of them.

Groupism, major hurdle: A major hurdle to the activation of the non-aligned movement

has been the emergence of groupism within the community in the wake of its rapid expansion. It is now plagued not only by divisive pressures exerted by regional and religious blocs but also continuing alignments and bilateral conflicts.

As current chairman of the movement, India has not been able to come forward with any concrete move for asserting the full weight of the non-aligned movement over any issue of direct concern to it other than lending its voice to general causes like disarmament and world peace. The one subject on which the non-aligned countries are fully united is racism as a remnant of colonialism.

As a country that has been consistently upholding the cause of the much exploited peoples of southern Africa, India will no doubt continue to crusade for Namibian freedom and end of racial dominance within the Republic of South Africa itself, but the main focus of its advocacy at non-aligned gatherings in future will be on the unity of the movement with all its diversities to safeguard the interests of the developing nations.

The Indian delegation will try its best to set the right tone at the Foreign Ministers' conference in Delhi next month for moving away from controversial issues reflecting internal dissensions within the non-aligned community to more fundamental objectives that are of greater importance to the whole movement.

The Prime Minister's inaugural address as well as the draft resolutions are being drawn up to highlight this new positive purpose before the next summit conference.

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CSO: 4600/1555

INDIA

SRI LANKA ACCUSED OF VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] London, March 6 (PTI)--India has accused the Sri Lankan government of indulging in actions which had resulted in serious violations of the human rights of the Tamil minority, whose members were being "blatantly" killed by the armed forces.

Voicing "justified disquiet and unease" at the recent developments in Sri Lanka, India told the U.N. commission on human rights in Geneva last night that there was very clear evidence that the escalating violence in the northern and eastern provinces directed against Tamils was "indiscriminate". These developments were a challenge to those concerned with the human rights.

The cease-fire appears to have broken and peace process appears to have floundered, Dr G.S. Dhillon, leader of the Indian delegation and former Union minister, told the commission which has in the past shown its concern for minorities in Sri Lanka.

Dr Dhillon said that it was a matter of utmost concern to India that there was indiscriminate violence against the Tamil minority and that it made no distinction between those engaged in conflict and innocent civilians -- men, women and children.

Influx of Refugees

He said over 125,000 Sri Lankan Tamils have sought refuge in India and another 45,000 in West Europe.

Dr Dhillon said "under the present circumstances, there is no prospect of their being able to return to their homes in safety and dignity. The influx of refugees not only continues unabated but threatens to continue indefinitely.

The stories related by tormented refugees arriving on our shores make it clear that the actions of the government of Sri Lanka have resulted in serious violations of the human rights of Sri Lanka's Tamil citizens living in the northern and eastern provinces of that country," he said.

The "blatant killings" of innocent civilians through ground, naval and air actions are beginning to look like the victimisation of the entire community of Sri Lankan Tamils by the Sri Lankan security forces," he said, adding that they have been picked up on mere suspicion, brutally tortured and some even killed.

He spoke of India's opposition to all forms of violence and its support for the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. India, he said, has offered its good offices to bring the conflicting parties together so that a peaceful settlement could be worked out.

Madras: A delegation of journalists from Europe and Australia, now visiting Colombo has been refused permission by the Sri Lankan government to tour the Tamil-dominated north and eastern parts of the island, according to the Eelam People's Information Centre.

In the meantime, India today firmly told the Sri Lanka government to resume negotiations on the ethnic problem as its present attitude and policies "would only mean prolong the agony and deepening the tragedy faced by Sri Lanka."

This was conveyed to Sri Lanka high commissioner, Mr B.P. Tilakratna, when he was called to the external affairs ministry by the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, to express India's "dismay and regret" at the content of the note in Sri Lankan government had presented on March 1.

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CSO: 4600/1540

INDIA

ASSAM TRIBALS THREATEN AGITATION FOR SEPARATE HOMELAND

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Mar 86 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 8.

THE tribals of Assam have threatened to launch an agitation for a separate homeland calling it "tribal land."

A delegation of tribals today called on the President, Mr. Zail Singh, and pleaded for intervention to get their demand conceded through discussion. Otherwise, they said, they would launch a movement.

The demand represents the first rumblings of dissent since the AGP government took over. The delegation told the President that the last poll which elected the present government was a farce "conducted by a very biased and partisan state administrative machinery."

This was proved by the fact, they pointed out, that polling recorded in

some constituencies was about 95 per cent. The party was put in office through this election, according to them, was indulging in activities "detrimental to the peace and progress of the aboriginal, ethnic and linguistic minorities."

The delegation said the talks that were being held with the tribals on the creation of "tribal land" with the Centre, before the Assam accord, had stopped since then and the fate of the tribals had been left to the mercies of a hostile political party.

Mr. B. K. Basumatari, MLA, who led the delegation of the United Tribal Nationalists Liberation Front, said the President assured them "that he will use his good offices to mete out justice to the scheduled tribes (plains) of Assam."

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CSO: 4600/1543

INDIA

MOVE TO RESTORE TRAIN SERVICES WITH BANGLADESH

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Mar 86 p 9

[Text] As a follow-up of last December SAARC declaration in Dhaka urging the seven member nations of the region to ease the flow of passenger traffic between them both India and Bangladesh have initiated moves to restore railway passenger services cut off following the India-Pakistan conflict in 1965.

The Railway Board has instructed the Eastern Railway to immediately start a feasibility cum economic survey on the passenger traffic that the restoration would generate. The Board has recommended that the survey be carried out on the Sealdah-Ranaghat-Gede section of the Eastern Railway at the earliest. This is the only serviceable rail route between the two countries in south Bengal.

About 1,500 tons of Indian coal in 1,200 wagons are sent to Bangladesh everyday, by this route which is being exclusively used for goods movement between the two countries. The old Bongaon-Petrapole route has been given up as the railway tracks on the Bangladesh side are missing.

Restoration of rail passenger traffic between the two countries has been a persistent popular demand in both India and Bangladesh because of low travel cost. But the Governments of the two countries have strong reservations on the restoration. While India's objection stemmed from the fact that the resumption would aggravate the already serious problem of Bangladeshi infiltration into India, the Bangladesh Government, at one time, was not keen on it as it wanted to minimize the points of contact between the people of the two countries. Dhaka was afraid that adding another means of communication between the two countries might bring into the country the undesirable Left political elements from West Bengal."

According to the Railway Board there was sufficient passenger traffic between the two countries in south Bengal justifying resumption of train services. But it was not known whether the services would be economically viable.

However, it is the rail transit traffic through Bangladesh more than the passenger traffic that the Indian Government is interested in and want Dhaka to extend this facility "for mutual benefit". Bangladesh has been "lukewarm" to this proposal though it would, according to Indian estimates earn annually

Rs 8 crores worth of foreign exchange for extending this facility. The transit facility would be a boon for India's northeastern States as it would drastically reduce the transportation time and cost and relieve the perennial goods traffic bottleneck at Farakka.

Despite a phenomenal increase in demand for essential items like food, coal, steel, cement and kerosene in the northeast movement of goods traffic through Farakka has been severely restricted, it being a single line section and for the introduction of new passenger trains. Whereas the demand for goods traffic of the entire northeast is about 10 million tons only about 4 million tons move by rail annually. The rest mostly move by road. If Bangladesh decides to give the transit right, much of the goods traffic can be diverted through Gede, Paksey, Santahar, Parbatipur or to Haldibari in Jalpaiguri. According to the Bangladesh Railway's own admission there is not much of rail traffic on this section and it could easily accommodate the northeast bound traffic.

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CSO: 4600/1547

INDIA

MINISTER REAFFIRMS GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUA

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Mar 86 p 5

[Text] India reaffirmed its unstinted support to Nicaragua in thwarting the forces of destabilisation and ensuring there was no outside interference or intervention, reports UNI.

This assurance was given by External Affairs Minister B R Bhagat in the Lok Sabha on Friday who expressed confidence that the collective will of the Latin American people would triumph.

Replying to a special discussion about the situation in Nicaragua, Mr Bhagat hoped the Central American Contadora group would intensify its activities and overcome the deadlock with the joint effort of the nations concerned.

Stating that India would "do everything possible for Nicaragua", Mr Bhagat said a technical economic mission was visiting that country later this month to help in their economic reconstruction.

He said the mission would identify areas where India could offer its expertise especially in the small scale sector and agriculture.

On members' demands that India should assist in building the Nicaraguan embassy in New Delhi, the Minister said "the matter is under consideration. There are many delicate matters involved. We will do everything to enable their embassy function effectively".

Commending the lion-hearted will of the Nicaraguan people "to sacrifice everything but not their freedom and independence", Mr Bhagat said there were some positive developments in respect of the American people.

In this context he said the US administration has agreed to support the efforts of the Contadora group to settle all disputes peacefully.

He hoped the American Congress would once again reduce considerably the aid package to Nicaragua besides taking away the military component. "There are some elements in the US who also want a peaceful solution", he added.

he pointed out it was also the desire of Latin America as a whole to resolve the conflicts and their foreign ministers in a statement have rejected any military intervention or confrontation.

Earlier, members from all sections expressed their solidarity with the people of Nicaragua in their struggle against American efforts to undermine political and economic sovereignty of that country.

Mr Ajay Mushran (Congress) who initiated the discussions said India as the chairman of the Non-aligned Movement, must extend all support to Nicaragua, which was a NAM member.

CPI leader Indrajit Gupta suggested sending a goodwill solidarity mission of Indian parliamentarians to Nicaragua and constitution of non-official committee of MPs to extend assistance to that country.

Mr N Venkataratnam (TD) complained that India was adopting a 'soft policy' in external affairs. Mr Basudev Acharya (CPI-M) said the US was taking steps "dangerously close" to armed intervention in Nicaragua. Parliament must move a resolution condemning US imperialist action in that country and extending support to the Nicaragua waging a brave struggle, he said.

Criticising the US policy in Nicaragua, Mr G S Rajhans (Congress) said the American action was nothing short of economic aggression, which was worse than political aggression.

Mr Eduardo Faleiro (Congress) charged the US of treating some of the Central American countries, known as Banana Republics, as their vassals. He cautioned about the machinations of the military industrial complex in America which really ruled the United States.

Prof K K Tewari (Congress) said intervention and interference was the imperialist onslaught on the freedom and independence of developing countries.

Mr Saifuddin Choudhury (CPI-M) wanted to know whether Nicaragua had wanted a non-aligned team to be associated with the Contadora group.

Mr N C Parashar (Congress) felt India should help Nicaragua in over-

coming illiteracy. Mr Jaipal Reddy (Janata) said it was ironic that a country which won independence about 200 years ago should threaten the freedom of so many countries in the world.

Meanwhile, in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, the members cutting across party lines, expressed "total and complete" support to Nicaragua and condemned the United States for aiding and financing forces inimical to it.

In the words of External Affairs Minister B R Bhagat, it was a "very happy and unique occasion". The concern of the parliamentarians showed the concern of the Indian people for freedom and their total opposition to those who try to throttle it, he said.

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CSO: 4600/1541

INDIA

GANDHI DISCUSSES ABDULLAH AT CONGRESS-I MEETING

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Mar 86 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 11.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has expressed his unhappiness over the remarks about the Congress (I) by the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, in his statements after the dismissal of the Shah Government.

Mr. Gandhi was referring to Dr. Abdullah's version of their talks on the political situation in the State prior to the dismissal. According to Dr. Abdullah, he had rejected the Prime Minister's offer to head a new Government with the support of the Congress (I) and also did not accept the suggestion of a Government formed by the two factions of the National Conference and the Congress (I). This was because, as Dr. Abdullah put it, the State Congress (I) could not be trusted in view of its action in ditching his father Sheikh Abdullah in 1977, and Mr. G. M. Shah now.

Mr. Gandhi briefly mentioned the latest developments in the State at a meeting of the Congress (I) Parliamentary Party executive. However, the party spokesman, in his customary briefing, skipped this point. It was clear that while the Prime Minister wanted the executive members to know what he felt of Dr. Abdullah's com-

ments, he did not like to make it a public issue.

The Prime Minister said that in his talk with Dr. Abdullah several alternatives to the removal of the Shah Government were discussed. This was natural in a discussion of this sort, the Prime Minister seemed to suggest in so many words. Dr. Abdullah, however, gave a garbled version of their discussions, said Mr. Gandhi. The executive members got the impression that Mr. Gandhi, felt sore about what Dr. Abdullah had said.

The Congress (I), as yet, had not applied its mind to the political strategy to be followed in the State. The Assembly there was kept under animated suspension which meant that the Centre—in other words, Central Congress (I) leaders—counted on a "re-alignment" in the Assembly to pave the way for a new popular set-up.

The Union Government had taken the position that the decision on the next step like dissolution of the Assembly, and the holding of fresh elections would depend on the Government's assessment. In practice, however, the Centre's thinking will determine the course of events.

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CSO: 4600/1555

INDIA

REPORT ON DRAFT DOCUMENTS FOR CPI PARTY CONGRESS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Mar 86 p 6

[Text] **Patna, March 9 (UNI, PTI) —** The CPI is facing a serious stagnation in its growth, according to documents prepared for the 13-party congress, beginning here on 12 March.

The document entitled "Draft View of National and International Developments" since the Varanasi party congress said the strength of the party could be increased by only 11282 members between 1981 and 1984.

The last party congress was held on the basis of 1981 membership which was 467,623 and the present congress was being held on the basis of 1984 membership strength of 4,78,905 registering an increase by 11,282.

Admitting that this was a small increase, the party said "we cannot say that there has been a steady growth in our membership throughout the period." After the Varanasi congress certain steps were taken by the national council to standardise the procedure regarding renewal of membership and to be more exacting in enforcing some of the norms for party membership, it

said.

As a result of these steps certain improvements have been made undoubtedly but these had also brought out some long standing weaknesses in the organisation, the document said.

The document blamed the local leadership for the 20 per cent drop out in its membership and said that this was not due to "political reasons."

The party in its draft political resolution felt that its opposition to domestic policies of the ruling party had proved correct. The document said that the party should continue to oppose the "anti-people policies of the Government and struggle for the working classes."

Criticising the CPI-M's attitude towards the forging of a left alternative, the document said although the CPI-M had changed its several "wrong and untenable" positions and started coming closer, some of its recent decisions had caused a set back to the process of growing Left unity and of developing fraternal relations between the two parties.

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CSO: 4600/1548

18 April 1986

INDIA

DEFENSE OFFICIALS DISCUSS PURCHASE OF SWEDISH SUBMARINES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Mar 86 p 5

[Text]

India is negotiating with Sweden the purchase of modern submarines and transfer of technology to build them indigenously, reports UNI.

Two top representatives of the Swedish shipyard Kockums held detailed discussions with senior officials of the Defence Ministry in this regard recently.

Mr R Sprinmont, chief of the naval division of Kockums, and his deputy P Kinnunun discussed Indian naval staff requirements for the submarines and their weapons systems.

The Kockums Shipyard has been asked to submit a detailed project report which would also include the training of Indian naval personnel, transfer of technology and tooling for manufacture of submarines and their price structure.

India has already signed a contract with the West German shipyard HDW which is making two submarines for the Navy. Another two are being manufactured indigenously at the Mazagon Dock in Bombay. There have been some slippages in the delivery and production schedules.

However, the thinking in the Defence Ministry is that India should acquire Swedish advanced submarine and torpedo technology.

The Indian naval experts were not satisfied with the torpedo trials given for the Indian Navy in western Europe.

The torpedo in question reportedly failed in the Falklands war.

If the deal with Sweden goes through, then India may buy one or two submarines outright and then produce them under licence.

The type 45 submarine (export version) is designed for operating in tropical waters and is fitted with two mechanically super-charged diesel engines.

It has a length of 62.5 metres, standard displacement of 1,350 tonnes and could dive from 300 to 500 metres under the sea. It has a maximum speed of 21 knots and an endurance of 10,000 nautical miles. It requires a very short snorkelling time of three hours a day and its mission time is 45 days.

The type 45 submarine's armament includes the mark 61 wire guided anti-shiping torpedo with extremely high hitting probability and mark 42, a primarily anti-submarine and self-defence torpedo. It can also be used against small landing craft.

The submarine has six torpedo tubes and carries 14 torpedoes and 22 mines. It has a complement of 3 officers and men.

According to naval experts, the type 45 submarine has been developed on the basis of a programme of extremely advanced studies. Computer-based mathematical models have been used to evaluate cost alternatives against performance in a wide range of situations and circumstances.

It meets the requirements of submarine in combat environment like quiet operation, excellent manoeuvring capabilities,

high speed, high endurance, long striking range, high instantaneous multi-purpose striking power, computerised information processing and high-capacity action information and fire-control.

The action information and fire-control systems developed for

the type 45 submarine provide high flexibility for selection of both torpedo type and the number of salvos to be directed at each target. The operator can switch targets after a discharge and fire torpedoes either singly or in salvos.

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CSO: 4600/1548

INDIA

BRIEFS

NEW TANK PROTOTYPE--Madras, March 8--The fifth prototype of the country's Main Battle Tank, which would be the mainstay of the Indian Army by the end of the 80s, rolled out of the heavy vehicles factory at Avadi near here, Dr V.S. Arunachalam, scientific adviser to the Defence Minister, said here yesterday, reports UNI. In an interview to UNI, Dr Arunachalam said except for the 1500 HP engine, all critical components such as hydropneumatic suspension and turbocharger which raised the horsepower of the engine three-fold, had been indigenously designed. Besides, the 120-mm gun capable of firing all anti-tank ammunition, was also designed indigenously, he said. Dr Arunachalam said the engine was now under various stages of design testing, evaluation and modification. He said there were only two types of 1500 HP tanks in the world. This tank would be inducted into the Indian Army by the end of the decade, he said. The prototypes were being field-tested for various aspects such as armour strength and fire power, he added. Dr Arunachalam said production of radars to detect low flying enemy aircraft had begun at the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore. Asked about the development of the light combat aircraft, Dr Arunachalam said feasibility report of the aircraft was now ready. Prototypes for trial and testing would be made in the next four years. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 9 Mar 86 p 7] /12851

HIMACHAL GOVERNOR RESIGNS--New Delhi, March 7--The Governor of Himachal Pradesh Mr Hokeishe Sema, has resigned, reports PTI. According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique here today, the President has accepted Mr Sema's resignation and appointed Mr Justice Prabodh Dinkar Rao Desai, Chief Justice of the State High Court, to discharge the functions of the Governor till a new Governor is appointed. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATEMAN in English 8 Mar 86 p 1] /12851

NEW BJP PRESIDENT--New Delhi, March 7--Mr L. K. Advani was declared elected as the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party today. Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, the outgoing president, informed Mr Jagmohan Rao Joshi, returning officer for the election, that he was withdrawing from the contest as he had not given his consent to his nomination as a candidate. Today was the last day for filing of nominations. Mr Advani was declared elected unanimously as there was no other candidates. Mr Advani's name was proposed by Mrs Vijaya Raje Scindia, vice-president of the party, who was at one time considered a possible successor to Mr Vajpayee. Mr Vajpayee's name was proposed by two BJP leaders of Delhi, Mr Kidar Nath Sahani and Mr Madan Lal Khurana. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 8 Mar 86 p 9] /12851

KOHL VISIT PLANNED--New Delhi, March 4 (PTI)--The Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), Mr Helmut Kohl, will pay a four-day visit to India from April 27, it was officially announced here today. He is coming here at the invitation of the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATEMAN in English 5 Mar 86 p 4] /12851

SECOND AIRCRAFT CARRIER--New Dehli, March 11--The Defence Ministry has finally decided to acquire the aircraft carrier Hermes from Britain and get it fully modernised in one of the naval dockyards there. The token price that India is paying for this aircraft carrier plus the refitting charges would be between E50 and 60 millions, which would be around Rs 80 crores. Throwaway price: This is a throwaway price for a fully modernised medium-sized carrier, which would cost at least five or six times more to build a new one of the same size fitted with the same sort of sophisticated equipment. The Navy will have two aircraft carriers with the acquisition of Hermes, giving its two fleets in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal the extra flexibility for conducting naval operations. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Mar 86 p 1] /12851

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